

Thursday, September 02, 2010

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*Carnahan Makes Statement In Wake of New Oil Rig Explosion Off Louisiana Coast*

(WASHINGTON, DC) - In the wake of a new oil rig explosion off the coast of Louisiana today, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) urged the U.S. Senate to quickly approve legislation already passed by the House of Representatives that will create new safety measures and strengthen oversight of oil drilling and restore the Gulf Coast.

**"What more evidence does the Senate need? It's time to get serious about safety,"** Carnahan said.

**"I don't understand why the Senate would let anything stand in the way of making sure we prevent any future economic and environmental damage from these Big Oil companies."**

Carnahan noted that preliminary reports indicate that today's fire and explosion on a Mariner Energy oil production platform is unlikely to result in serious damage to the Gulf of Mexico and bordering states, but expressed frustration that the Senate has yet to act on legislation passed over a month ago by the House.

**"We may have dodged a bullet this time, but the people, businesses and wildlife of the Gulf cannot afford another incident like this,"** Carnahan said.

With Carnahan's support, the House of Representatives passed the CLEAR Act and other measures to make sure that Oil Companies - not taxpayers - are responsible for the cost of cleaning up oil spills, and to put into place strong measures that prevent them from happening in the first-place.

The CLEAR act holds BP and the oil industry fully responsible for the cleanup costs and recovery after spills by removing the existing \$75 million cap on economic damages, strengthens oversight of oil drilling by dismantling the current scandal ridden agency in charge and replacing it with 3 separate and independent entities to avoid conflicts of interests; and offers protection to offshore oil and gas workers who report violations or practices that endanger the public to state and federal government authorities.

Carnahan has also called for an end of taxpayer funded subsidies for oil companies in addition to removing caps on the costs of cleanup following an oil spill. He believes there is no need to protect the largest and most profitable companies in the world from burdens that every other taxpayer faces. The End Big Oil Tax Subsidies Act of 2010, cosponsored by Carnahan, ends expensive and unnecessary subsidies that the American people provide to the world's largest and most profitable companies.

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